

Amendments to the Specification:

Delete the sub-heading "Description" before paragraph [0001] and add the following new sub-headings and paragraph:

-- PRIORITY CLAIM

This is a U.S. national stage of application No. PCT/EP2004/011857, filed on 20 October 2004. Priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) and 35 U.S.C. §365(b) is claimed from German Application No. 203 16 238.2, filed 20 October 2003.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. **Field of the Invention** --

Before paragraph [0002] add the following new sub-heading:

-- 2. **Description of the Related Art** --

Before paragraph [0006] add the following new sub-heading:

-- **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION** --

Delete paragraph [0006].

Amend paragraph [0007] as follows:

[0007] This object is met by The the inventive upper fitting is being provided with lift-out protection by means of the a fitting arrangement indicated in claim 1. The lift-out protection acts in an outwardly inconspicuous manner because it is arranged below the fitting body, or a clamping device, that is terminated by cover caps.

Add before paragraph [0014] the following new sub-heading:

-- **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS** --

Add before paragraph [0017] the following new sub-heading:

-- **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS** --

Delete paragraph [0023].

Delete the heading "Claims" at page 6, and add the following:

-- What is claimed is: --